



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

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MEDIA RELEASE

Titore's royal armour – from one Rangatira to another

Titore – a rangatira of Kororarereka (modern day Russell) – was no slouch when it came to writing letters.

Spotting *HMS Buffalo* moored in the Bay of Islands in 1834, Titore decided to make the most of this opportunity and dashed off a brief note to King William IV.

With a little help from Rev William Yate of the Church Missionary Society – who was planning to head back to England on the *Buffalo* – Titore wrote to the monarch advising him that he was sending trees to make battleships in case King William quarrelled with the French.

“Titore also gifted a *mere pounamu* [greenstone weapon] and two *kakahu* [cloaks] to the king – appropriately prestigious gifts for a reigning sovereign,” says Heritage New Zealand’s Northland Manager, Bill Edwards.

Titore’s letter paid off. The king responded in kind, addressing the rangatira as ‘His Highness Titore’, and thanking him for his presents. To Titore’s no doubt delight, the king sent him a suit of armour ‘as was worn in former times by my warriors’ via British Resident James Busby.

“Titore’s letter wasn’t the first document presented to the King that bore his signature,” says Bill.

“Three years earlier, Titore – along with 12 other Northland rangatira – had written to William IV petitioning him for help to protect their land against colonisation by the French, and to bring order to lawless settlers, among other things.”

These and other stories are told in an exciting new app for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets entitled *Path to Nationhood*. Produced by Heritage New Zealand, the suite of six Northland app-based tours are available free to download, and are a must-have for visitors to Northland, as well as locals.

“Once downloaded the tours can be enjoyed anywhere – irrespective of whether there is wi-fi or a cellular connection – making it the perfect virtual tour guide,” says Bill.

“The *Path to Nationhood* tours take people to the places where these interactions occurred and introduce them to some of the characters that made this period of our history so dynamic and extraordinary.”

The tours tell a range of stories in an engaging and accessible way according to Bill.

“Many of the stories centre around some of our fantastic Heritage Destinations in Northland, so people can actually visit places where many of these people lived, and events took place,” he says.

“It’s fair to say that the app tours give people an opportunity to see history through new eyes.”

For a free download of the *Path to Nationhood* suite of Northland tours visit **heritage.org.nz/apps** or search for Heritage Trails through your online app store.